WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

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$2.00

COLDER, WINDY
High: 52
Low: 36
0% chance of rain

Thursday: Sunny, 58 / 34
Friday: Cloudy, 62 / 39
Saturday: Showers, 67 / 47

Weather in-depth: Page B10

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Credible. Compelling. Complete.

COUNTY BY COUNTY, B2-B5
EXPANDED COVERAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

NATION & WORLD, A3
HOW DEADLY SHOOTING UNFOLDED AT MD. SCHOOL

METRO, B1
WHY LETTER UNNERVED SOME PIEDMONT PATIENTS

TOP LOCAL STORY STORM'S AFTERMATH

Ontario Alvarez holds his mother, Katrina Dawson, in front of their house Tuesday in the Jumpers Trail neighborhood in Fairburn in south Fulton County. After reports of a tornado Monday night, residents in Fairburn's Chestnut Ridge subdivision woke up to front porches ripped from foundations, roofs blown into pieces and exterior walls torn asunder and scattered in backyards. JOHN SPINK/JSPINK@AJC.COM

MANY IN REGION FACE HEAVY STORM LOSSES

Thousands across area lost power; twister tore Chestnut Ridge homes apart.

By Leon Stafford
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Anthony Chappell was sleeping soundly Monday night when his daughter woke him up scared that someone was downstairs beating a bat hard against the outside wall.

The sound turned out not to be a Louisville Slugger, but baseball-sized hail from a tornado that was pounding the five-bedroom home in their south Fulton County's Fairburn neighborhood. The clamor was joined by howling wind, shutters banging fiercely and eventually the telltale sign of a tornado – the sound of a train.

"That's when I said, 'We need to get downstairs,'"

Storm continued on **A10**

FACTS & FIGURES

13K customers, primarily in the western part of the state, who lost power.

1 the number of nights Clayton County Sheriff's Deputy Justin Mitchell, a first-time homebuyer, had spent in his brand new house before the storm damaged it while he was at work. "I was still getting things turned on, that's how new this was. The only furniture I really have is in the bedroom, which now has a hole in the roof ..."

174 severe weather reports of large hail.

TOP NATIONAL STORY AUSTIN BOMBINGS

Package explodes at FedEx in Texas

Package addressed to an Austin home went off near San Antonio.

By Paul J. Weber and Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Investigators pursuing a suspected serial bomber in the Texas capital shifted their attention Tuesday to a FedEx shipping center near San Antonio where a package exploded on a conveyor belt in the middle of the night and caused minor injuries to a worker.

Although the latest blast did not inflict serious harm, it added to the widening fear of more strikes like those that have already killed two people and badly wounded four others.

Hours after the explosion, police sent a bomb squad to a FedEx facility outside Austin's main airport to check on a suspicious package that was reported shortly before sunrise.

Explosion continued on **A4**

ALSO INSIDE
» Sandy Springs-based UPS cooperating in blast probe, **A9**

TIMELINE OF TEXAS BOMBING INCIDENTS

FBI, ATF and local police investigate an explosion Tuesday at a FedEx shipping facility in Schertz, near San Antonio. A package exploded on a conveyor belt in the middle of the night, causing minor injuries to a worker. SCOTT OLSON / GETTY IMAGES

March 2: A package left at an Austin house explodes, killing a 39-year-old man.

March 12: Two more package bombs explode at Austin homes. A teen was killed in the first blast.

Sunday: Two men were wounded in Austin by a bomb triggered by a tripwire.

Tuesday: A package explodes on a conveyor belt at a FedEx shipping center in Schertz, Texas, about 60 miles southwest of Austin.

LOCAL IN-DEPTH 2018 ELECTIONS

Many Georgia Dem hopefuls shun Pelosi

None of 10 seeking 6th, 7th District House seats publicly embraces Californian.

By Tamar Hallerman
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WASHINGTON — Multiple Democrats running in Georgia's two most competitive U.S. House races are disavowing Nancy Pelosi — or at least keeping their distance from the House Democratic leader — as they seek to neutralize a well-worn GOP offensive on the campaign trail.

None of the six Democrats challenging U.S. Rep. Rob Woodall in the 7th Congressional District nor the four aiming to take on U.S. Rep. Karen Handel in the 6th Congressional District have publicly embraced the Californian, a striking rebuke of their party's House leader.

Four said they thought it was time for new leadership in the House Democratic caucus.

Pelosi continued on **A4**

WHERE CANDIDATES STAND

ON HOUSE MINORITY LEADER NANCY PELOSI:
- **Want new leadership:** Kevin Abel, Steven Knight, David Kim, Steve Reilly
- **Unclear:** Bobby Kaple, Kathleen Allen, Carolyn Bourdeaux
- **No response:** Lucy McBath, Melissa Davis, Ethan Pham

PELOSI HIGHLIGHTS

- Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi has served as House minority leader since 2011. She served as House speaker from 2007-11.
- Democrat Conor Lamb recently won in a former Trump stronghold in Pennsylvania after vowing to oppose Pelosi.
- A 2017 AJC Poll found that 58 percent of likely voters in the 6th District held an unfavorable view of Pelosi. Democrat Jon Ossoff lost to GOP's Karen Handel.
- In her own words: "I am a master legislator, I am a shrewd politician and I have a following in the country that, apart from a presidential candidate, nobody else can claim," Pelosi recently told The New York Times.

LOCAL IN-DEPTH CDC

Controversial AIDS doctor may be top pick to lead CDC

Dr. Robert Redfield has strong detractors and supporters for the post.

By Ariel Hart
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The Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been without a permanent director since Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald resigned in January. News reports suggest the Georgian's replacement may be a very different type of health expert.

Dr. Robert Redfield, an AIDS treatment pioneer who has gained expertise in treating heroin addiction, has been reported in national news sites as the leading candidate by anonymous administration officials.

The news drew strong reaction this week in interviews with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Redfield continued on **A5**

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